



# Update on Next Cleanup Steps

**Sauget Areas 1 and 2**  
Sauget and Cahokia, Illinois

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## Contact EPA

For more information about the site contact:

### Cheryl Allen

Community Involvement Coordinator  
312-353-6196  
allen.cheryl@epa.gov

### Dayana Abdullah-Smoot

Remedial Project Manager  
312-353-7210  
abdullahsmoot.dayana@epa.gov

You may call EPA's Chicago office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## You may review site-related documents at:

Cahokia Public Library  
140 Cahokia Park Dr.  
Cahokia

## On the Web:

Site documents can be found on the following website:

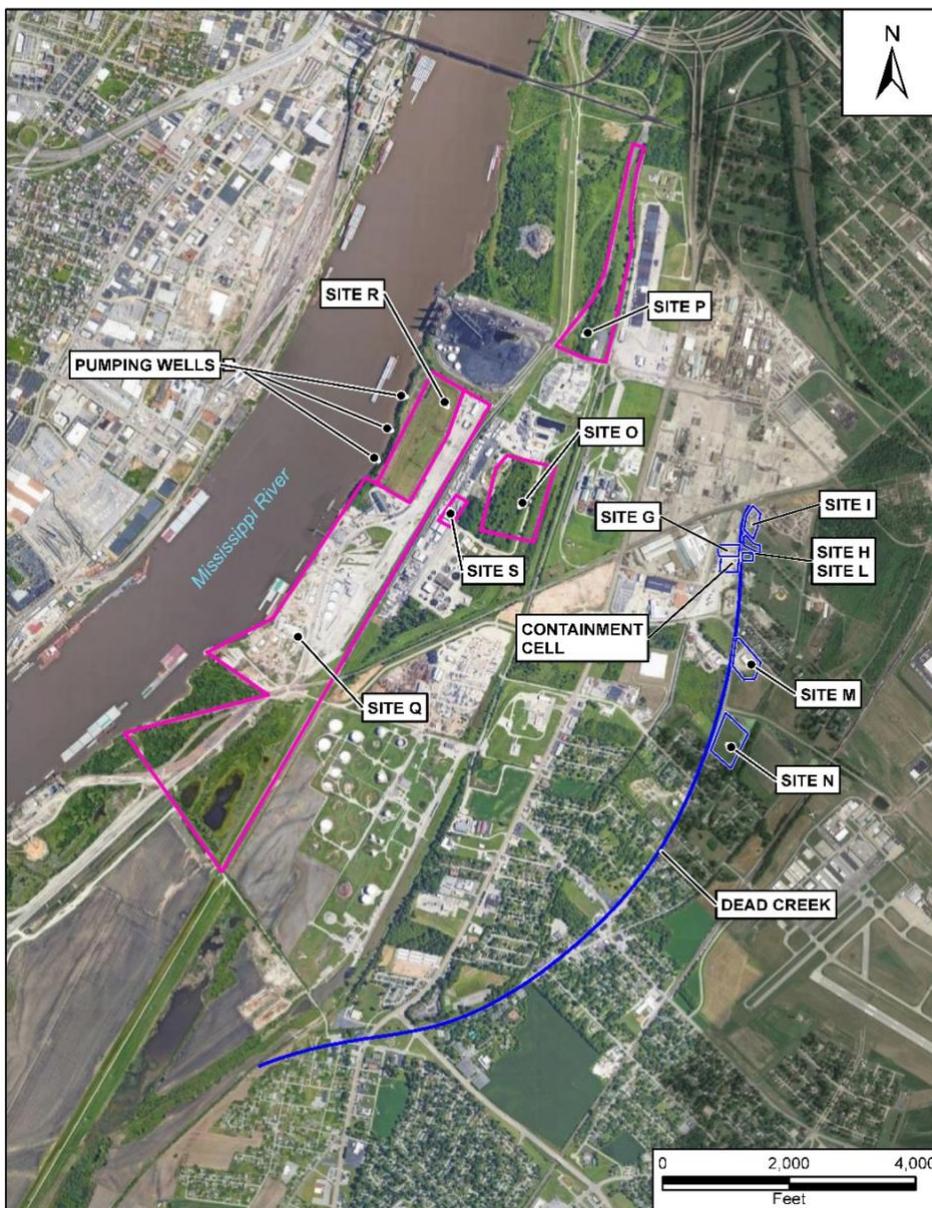
### Sauget Area 1

[www.epa.gov/superfund/sauget-area1](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sauget-area1)

### Sauget Area 2

[www.epa.gov/superfund/sauget-area2](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sauget-area2)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing cleanup activities at the Sauget Areas 1 and 2 Superfund sites. The Sauget sites are located in the village of Sauget and the city of Cahokia Heights, Illinois. This update provides background information, the status of each site, and next steps in the cleanup process.



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Figure 1. Map outlining both Area 1 and Area 2 Sites.

## Sauget Area 1

The Sauget Area 1 site is located in the village of Sauget and the city of Cahokia Heights in St. Clair County, Illinois. It consists of three closed waste disposal areas (Sites G, H, and I), a closed construction debris disposal area (Site N), a backfilled impoundment (Site L), an inactive borrow pit (Site M), and about 3.5 miles of Dead Creek. A borrow pit is an excavated area where material has been dug for use as fill material at another location.

### Current site status

The site is being cleaned up by the potentially responsible party, or PRP, under state and federal enforcement agreements and oversight.

EPA's overall strategy for cleaning up the site is to first address soil, sediments, surface water, and groundwater contamination sources for OU1. Area-wide groundwater contamination resulting from contamination present in the Sauget Area 1 and 2 sites will be addressed in a separate cleanup plan.

Groundwater is an environmental term for underground supplies of water.

### Previous Sauget Area 1 activities

In 1995, EPA sampled, excavated, consolidated and covered 75 cubic yards of soil at Site G to protect public health and the environment. In 1999, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order, or UAO, to the PRPs to conduct activities that included digging up contaminated sediment from Dead Creek Segment B-E, Site M and the basin area, and removing 22,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from Dead Creek. EPA pumped water in areas of Dead Creek to improve drainage and reduce standing water and placed a liner in the creek segment. A containment cell was constructed at Judith Lane in 2001. EPA amended the UAO in 2001 to include cleanup of contaminated sediments in Creek Segment F and Borrow Pit Lake. The cleanup of Dead Creek and Borrow Pit Lake in Sauget Area 1 was completed in 2008.

EPA approved the site's Record of Decision, or ROD, for Operable Unit 1 in September 2013. This document outlines EPA's plan for cleaning up remaining

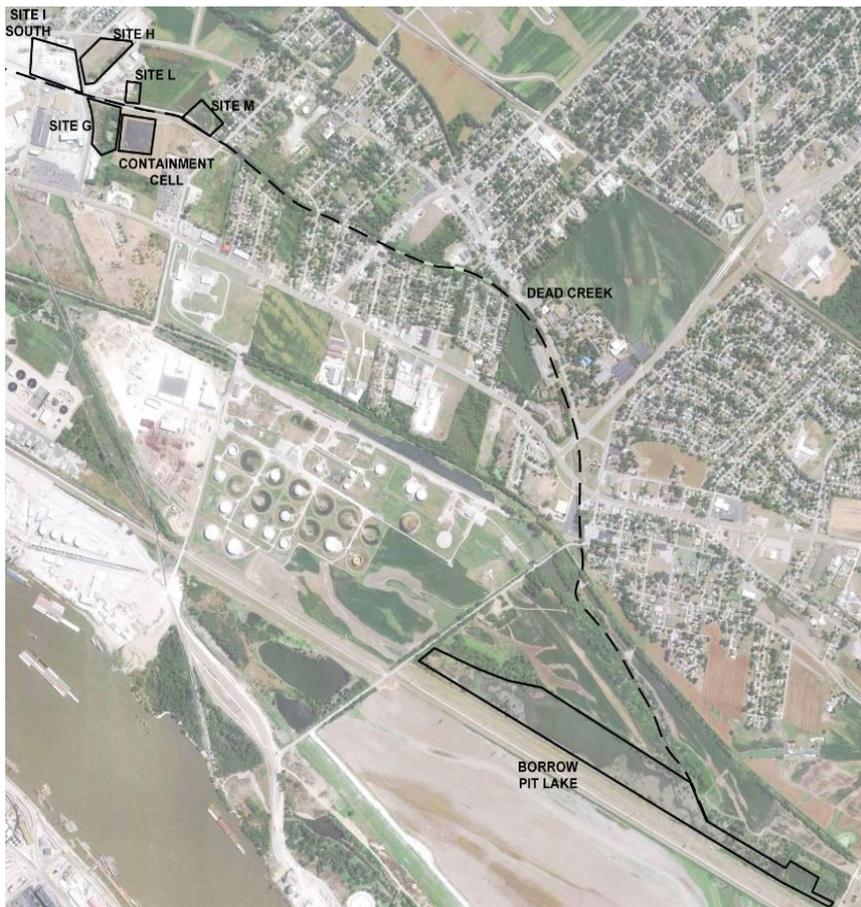


Figure 2. Map outlines the sites in Area 1.

contamination at the site. It is the first of two cleanup decisions and cleanup actions for the site.

Under EPA's cleanup plan, the selected remedy called for a Pilot Study of pulsed air biosparging to determine if the technology would be effective in treating contaminants at the site. The PRPs ran a pilot study using pulsed air biosparging from January 2020 to January 2021 and submitted the pilot study report to EPA in May 2021. EPA is currently reviewing the results of the pilot study.

#### Pulsed Air Biosparging

Biosparging is an onsite cleanup technology that uses local microorganisms to degrade organic contamination in groundwater and saturated soil below the water table. In biosparging, air and nutrients (if needed) are injected underground to increase the biological activity of the natural microorganisms. The increased biological activity causes the contamination to degrade thereby reducing concentrations of organic constituents that are dissolved in groundwater or adsorbed to soil.

Pulsing the injection of air and nutrients (repeatedly turning the treatment system on and off) improves treatment because it enhances the mixing of groundwater and air. By pulsing the injections, aerated groundwater moves more easily from large pore spaces into smaller pore spaces. This method of injection also reduces treatment operating costs and system maintenance which increases the life of equipment.

## Sauget Area 2

Sauget Area 2 is located in Sauget. The 312-acre area includes five inactive disposal areas including three closed landfills (Sites P, Q, and R), four closed sludge dewatering lagoons (Site O), and an abandoned solvent reclamation facility waste disposal site (Site S).

### Current site status

The site is being cleaned up by the PRP under state and federal enforcement agreements and oversight.

The PRP has completed the remedial design and construction of the cap for Site P in December 2021.

On November 17, 2021, EPA signed a Consent Decree with the PRPs to implement the cleanup plan for the rest of the Sauget Area 2 sites (O, Q, R and S).

### Previous Sauget Area 2 activities

In 2000, EPA removed riverbank drums at Site Q Central and removed drums and soil at Site Q South. In 2002, the Agency issued an Administrative Order requiring the PRPs to construct a groundwater barrier wall, called a Groundwater Migration Containment System, or GMCS, next to the Mississippi River. Construction was completed in 2005. Between 2005 and 2009, the PRPs tested and made adjustments to the system. Since 2009, the GMCS has operated as required.

In December 2013, EPA approved the site's ROD, for Operable Unit 1 which outlines EPA's plan for cleaning up remaining contamination at the site. It is the first of two cleanup decisions and cleanup actions for the site.

Three Five-Year Reviews have been completed for Sauget Area 2 in 2008, 2013, and 2018. The next Five-Year Review will be completed in 2023.

In 2019, EPA and the Department of Justice entered into an agreement with the PRP to carry out the cleanup plan for Site P.

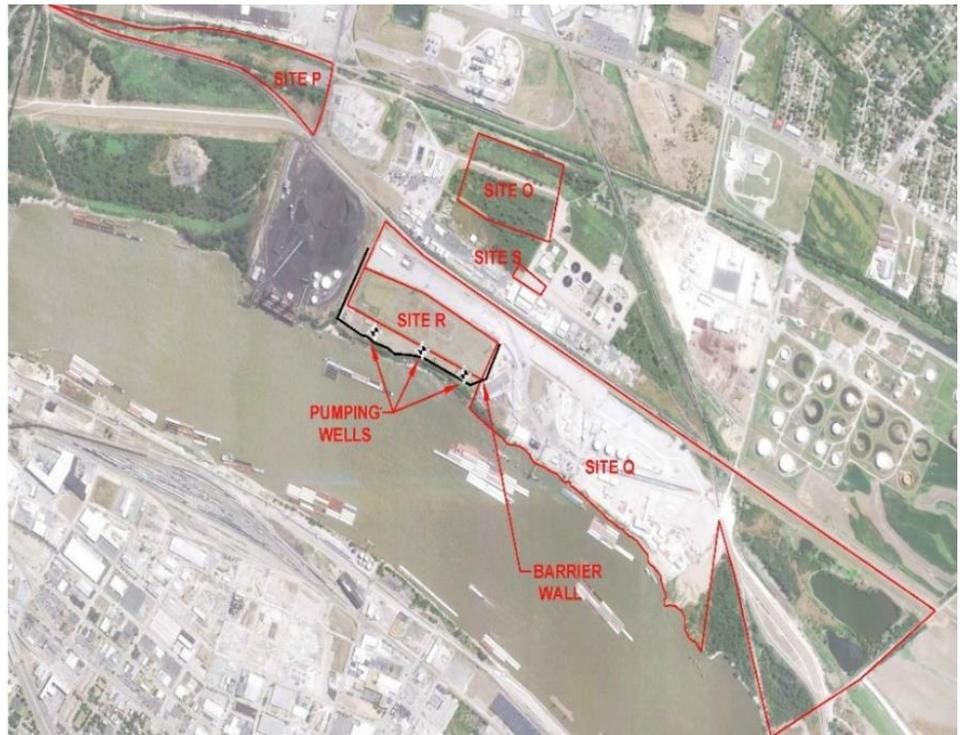


Figure 3. Map outlines the sites included in Area 2.

### Next steps

For Sauget Area 1, EPA is currently reviewing the pulsed air biosparging report the PRPs submitted in May 2021 and will provide their assessment.

In December 2021, the PRPs completed construction at Site P of Sauget Area 2. They are currently working on the design for the cleanup plan for Sauget Area 2 Sites O, Q, R and S.

EPA plans to update its Community Involvement Plan for the site in late spring 2022. The plan is a guide EPA uses to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund investigation and cleanup process. EPA representatives would like to talk with area residents about its ongoing investigation and cleanup of the Sauget Area 1 and Area 2 sites. If you would like to participate in the interviews, please contact Cheryl Vaccarello at 312-201-7791 or [cheryl.vaccarello@tetrattech.com](mailto:cheryl.vaccarello@tetrattech.com). Cheryl is a contractor working for the EPA on the Sauget sites.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 5  
Community Involvement and  
Outreach Section (RE-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

# SAUGET AREAS 1 AND 2 SITES: Update on Site Activities

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